

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief Lowell M. Porter



Government and Media Relations
(360) 753-5299 – office
(360) 753-5469 – fax
<http://www.wa.gov/wsp/wsphome.htmff>

For Immediate Release

February 4, 2004

Contact: Lieutenant Richard Wiley
(360) 507-0453

WSP Helps to Locate Missing Children

In 2003, there were 21,396 missing juvenile reports filed with a law enforcement agency in Washington State. On any given day, there are approximately 1,700 missing juveniles in our state. This does not include the estimated 300 children per month who are never reported as missing by a parent/guardian referred to by some as "thrown away children." Nor does the 1,700 include the number of children missing from other states/countries who have come to Washington. Approximately 85%-90% of the 1,700 are runaways and 10%-15% are missing children involved in custodial interference cases.

The Missing Children Clearinghouse at the Washington State Patrol is dedicated to assisting families and law enforcement in locating these missing children. Through investigative assistance, they have located children across the country and around the world. They were able to assist in the recovery of 123 children in 2003, most of which were custodial interference cases.

If your child becomes missing, immediately file a report with the law enforcement agency who has jurisdiction where the child was last seen. You may also file a report with the Washington State Patrol Missing Children Clearinghouse at 1-800-543-5678.

"The Missing Children Clearinghouse is making a difference every day for families throughout Washington," stated Chief Lowell Porter.

###